PART III

Physical Description

Physical Regions of Washington

On the basis of surface features, Washington may be divided into eight general regions. Agricultural settlement is influenced by factors of topography, climate, soil, forest vegetation, and water resources distinctive to each of the physiographic regions. Each has become a different type of farming area as settlers have learned to adapt crops and livestock to the conditions, or have improved limitations through drainage or irrigation.

Coastal Plains

A narrow, sandy plain with shallow bays, tidal flats, stream deltas, and low headlands lies between the coastline and the Coast Range. It extends from the Columbia River mouth almost to Cape Flattery, being widest and lowest in the Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay districts. The climate is mild and damp with a long growing season, but it is too cool, cloudy, and wet for most crops. Originally this area was covered with heavy forests and much is now covered with woodlands. Lumbering and manufacture of wood products is the main industry. Farming is largely of the livestock and dairying type on low uplands and drained areas in the lower Chehalis River Valley. Cranberry growing is important and well-adapted to numerous, boggy areas in the Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay sections. The shallow bays are also used for oyster culture. Fishing is common in the rivers and coastal banks.

Coast Range

The Coast Range is an uplifted area of sedimentary and metamorphic rocks divided into the Olympic Mountains and the Willapa Hills. The Olympics tower to nearly 8,000 feet in a dome-like structure, carved deeply by rivers. These mountains have the heaviest precipitation in the state. Snowfields and heavy forest cover the mountains. Most of the wilderness area is within the Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park, being managed for recreation, wildlife, and timber. Farm settlement is limited to some foothill river plains and coastal terraces such as the Dungeness and Port Angeles districts along the Strait of Juan De Fuca. Here in the lee of the mountains, rainfall is moderate and irrigation is practiced by some livestock farmers. The Willapa Hill country is wet, heavily forested, and carved into numerous narrow valleys. Logging is the main industry, combined with livestock farming in the upper Chehalis River Valley and along the banks of the Columbia River. Wet climate, hilly topography, and the difficulty of clearing stump land retards agriculture.

Willamette-Puget Sound Lowland

A broad lowland, described as a trough or valley, lies between the Coast Range and the Cascade Mountains. The northern part is the Puget Sound

Lowland which has been glaciated and occupied by the sea in the lowest sections. The continental glacier reached slightly south of Olympia. Under a warming climate it melted and geologists believe it receded about 25,000 years ago, leaving an infertile plain of moraines and outwash gravels, sands, and clays known today as the Puget Glacial Drift Plain. Its rolling surface has numerous lakes and bogs. Most of the major cities--Seattle, Tacoma, Everett, Bellingham, and Olympia--have been built on moraines bordering the Sound. Rivers such as the Nooksack, Skagit, Snoqualmie, White, and Puyallup built up deltas and flood plains over the older gravelly plains. These narrow valleys are more fertile than the older glacial plains, and support numerous small dairy, vegetable, and berry farms. Most of the gravelly areas are wooded with a second-growth forest and are used for pastures. In the southern part of the Willamette-Puget Sound Lowland, there are two large valleys--the Cowlitz and Chehalis. They drain a low, hilly area with several flat prairies and bottom lands.

Agriculture is handicapped by poor drainage and flooding of the river deltas and plains, by heavy winter rainfall, by cloudy, but dry summers, by coarse, gravelly upland soils, and by densely wooded land which is costly to clear. Advantages are mild climate and a location close to major markets for farm products such as milk, poultry, and vegetables.

Cascade Mountains

The Cascades are a wide and high topographic and climatic barrier which separates western and eastern Washington. The range is made up of sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic rocks which have been carved by glaciers and streams. High isolated volcanic cones of lava such as Mt. Adams (12,307 feet), Mt. Rainier (14,408 feet), and Mt. Baker (10,791 feet), appear upon the older Cascade rocks. The Cascade crest varies between 10,000 and 3,000 feet and is higher and more rugged in northern Washington. Roads and railroads have been built across its lower passes in central and southern Washington. The Columbia River has cut a deep gorge and the lowest pass through the barrier. The western slope is wet and heavily forested with Douglas fir. The eastern slope is drier with a less-dense pine forest. Nearly all classified as forest land, most of the area is in Federal ownership in five national forests and Mount Rainier National Park. Tree fruit farming in the eastern slope valleys of Wenatchee, Chelan, Methow, Naches, and the Columbia Gorge is most important. Sheep and cattle summer grazing on alpine grasslands is another use. Deep western slope valley bottoms such as the Skagit, Snoqualmie, Nisqually, Cowlitz, and Lewis also contain livestock farms. The area is vitally important as a source of water for irrigation and city drinking water and as a source of timber. Steep terrain, wet climate, short growing seasons, and heavy forest vegetation are main handicaps for agriculture.

Columbia Basin

A low plateau of old lava rocks covered with stream and wind-deposited soils extends in a series of plains, ridges, coulees, and hills from the Cascades to the eastern Washington border. The area is basin-like in structure, being higher around its margins and sloping inward to low and level central plains. It has been sharply eroded by the Columbia River and

its interior tributaries, the Snake, Yakima, Palouse, and Spokane Rivers. The basin has sub-areas created by crustal movements and erosion.

The Yakima Folds are a series of hilly ridges extending from the Cascades eastward into the lower part of the basin. The Yakima and Columbia Rivers have cut gaps through the ridges, and built up plains in the troughs between them. The rich, alluvial plain of the Yakima River is an important irrigated valley.

The Waterville Plateau is a tableland of thin soils overlaying basaltic rock at an elevation of 2,500 to 3,000 feet. It has gorges cut by the Columbia River and ancient glacial outwash streams once flowing in Moses and Grand Coulees. It is too high for irrigation and is used for dryland grain and livestock farming. The high plain is often called the Big Bend country.

The Channelled Scablands is a belt of dry terrain carved by ice-age rivers into a series of coulees. Bare rock is exposed in the coulees. Small plateaus between the old river channels have thin soils used for dryland farming. The Grand Coulee of this region has been developed into a major irrigation reservoir.

The Palouse Hills consist of fertile deposits of wind-blown soil overlaying basaltic lava flows. After being deposited in large dunes, the formation was reshaped by streams into an intricate pattern of low, rounded hills which are tilled for wheat, barley, and legumes. The hills receive 16 to 25 inches of rainfall and have deep, porous and fertile soils. It is one of the richest farming areas of the Pacific Northwest.

The Central Plains are low and relatively level expanses of soil, deposited by old streams crossing the Channelled Scablands and later by the flooding of the Yakima, Columbia, Snake and Walla Walla Rivers. Climate is desert-like (6-12 inches of precipitation per year). The lower lands of the area, the Quincy and Pasco Basins and the Walla Walla valley, are irrigated. Quincy Basin is a new irrigation area watered by Grand Coulee Dam.

Agricultural handicaps in Columbia Basin regions are mainly found in its dry, continental climate. Large irrigation systems built since 1900 have overcome much of the need for water on rich valley and basin soils. Dryland farming in higher areas is practiced widely, although occasional variations in rainfall, lack of snowfall, winter-kill, water and wind erosion inflict damage to field crops and to livestock ranges.

Okanogan Highlands

A portion of the Rocky Mountains, consisting of well-eroded old granites, lavas and sedimentary rocks extends across north central Washington. These are the Okanogan Highlands, the state's richest mineral area. Summit levels reach 4,000 to 5,000 feet with peaks exceeding 7,000 feet. Prominent north-south valleys are occupied by irrigated tree fruit and livestock farms. These are the Okanogan, Sanpoil, Kettle, and Colville Valleys. The Columbia River gorge through the Okanogan Highlands is occupied by the large man-made

lake behind Grand Coulee Dam--Roosevelt Lake. High and wetter portions are forested with pine and larch, and are managed for timber and for livestock ranges by the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Cold winter temperatures, short growing seasons, dry valley climates and distance from markets are farming handicaps.

Selkirk Mountains

The Selkirks, a range of the Rocky Mountain system, extend into the northeast corner of Washington. The rocks are old mineralized granites and metamorphics reaching elevations of over 7,000 feet. The Pend Oreille River Valley at the base of the Selkirks is an agricultural area of narrow bottom lands settled by livestock farmers. Nearly all of the uplands are in Kaniksu National Forest. While climate is cool and growing seasons are short, the Pend Oreille Valley has an advantage of being closely located to the Spokane metropolitan market area.

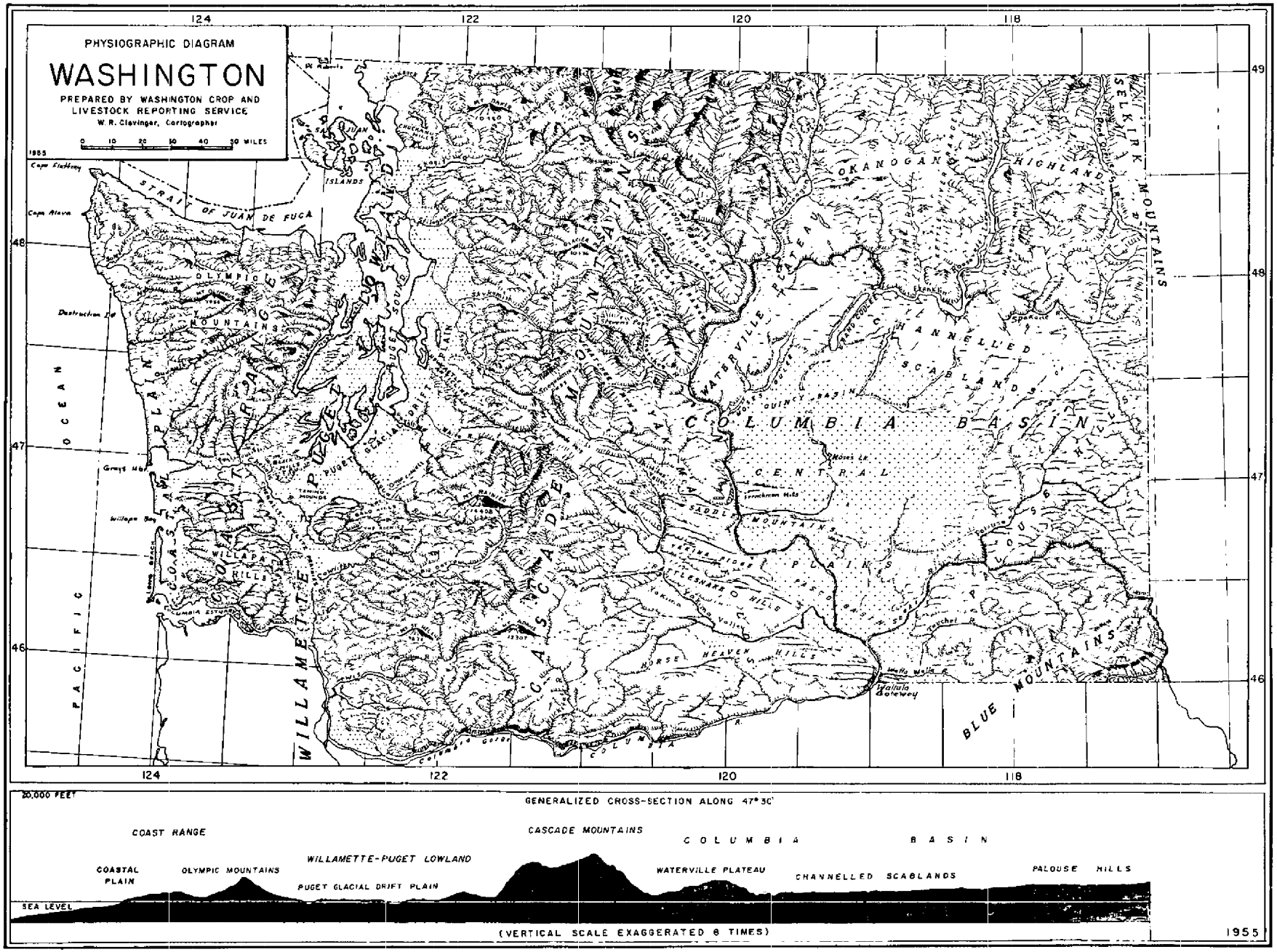
Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains are an uplifted and eroded plateau extending into the southeastern corner of Washington. The strata are mainly ancient crystalline rocks which contain some minerals. The highest point of the mountains in the Washington section is Diamond Peak (6,401 feet), on the divide between the Grande Ronde, Tucannon and Touchet Rivers. These rivers, and the Walla Walla River, have cut valleys into the plateau. Extensive pine forest and grassland areas are in the highlands within Umatilla National Forest, where rainfall is 30 to 40 inches. The Snake River has cut a deep valley and gorge across the lower parts of the mountains. The area is well developed agriculturally around its northern foothills where wind-blown soils are deep and irrigation systems are used. The Walla Walla and Tucannon Valleys are rich grain, legume and livestock areas grown under irrigation and by dry farming. Grazing is an important use of the high lands by livestock ranchers in the upper valleys.

Topography of Spokane County

Spokane County lies within three physiographic provinces of eastern Washington. Terrain is varied between mountains, hills, glaciated valleys and plains. Most of the county area is 1,500 feet and more above sea level. The principal drainage feature and lowland which gives the area geographical unity is that of the Spokane River. This river valley, a major tributary of the upper Columbia River, is an artery of transcontinental rail and highway transportation.

Northern Spokane County is in the Okanogan Highlands province. This is a mountainous and hilly area of coniferous forests with lowland valleys cut by the Spokane River and its tributaries. The Okanogan Highland valleys such as the Spokane, Little Spokane, Dragoon Creek, Deep Creek and Deadman Creek are narrow river plains occupied by farms. Glaciation during the last ice age 10,000 to 20,000 years ago has shaped the hilly surface and deposited numerous beds of gravel and sand. Flat to rolling elevated prairies were also created such as Saltese Flats, Pleasant Prairie, Half Moon Prairie and Peone Prairie. Glaciation also left an uneven surface and created several lakes in the highlands such as Newman, Hauser, Liberty and Eloika Lakes. The highest point in the county is Mount Spokane (5,878 feet) which looms up sharply 15 miles


PHYSIOGRAPHIC DIAGRAM
WASHINGTON
PREPARED BY WASHINGTON CROP AND LIVESTOCK REPORTING SERVICE
W. R. Clevinger, Cartographer
0 10 20 30 40 50 MILES
1955
124
122
120
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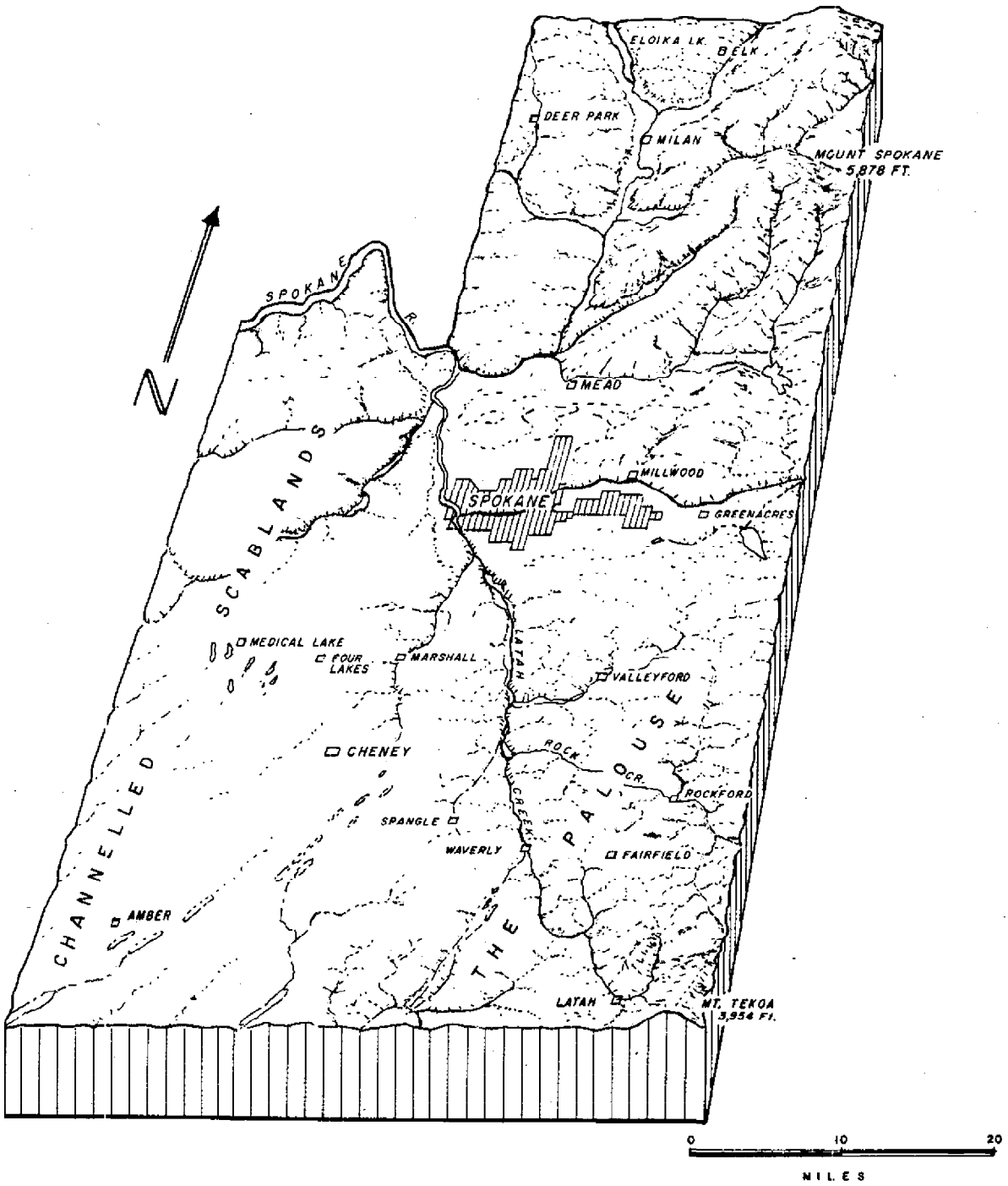
49
48
47
46
PACIFIC OCEAN
STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA
SAN JUAN ISLANDS
OLYMPIC MOUNTAINS
COASTAL PLAIN
WILLAPA HILLS
WILLAMETTE-PUGET LOWLAND
PUGET GLACIAL DRIFT PLAIN
PUGET SOUND
CASCADE MOUNTAINS
OKANOGAN HIGHLAND
SELKIRK MOUNTAINS
COLUMBIA BASIN
WATERVILLE PLATEAU
CHANNELLED SCABLANDS
QUINCY BASIN
CENTRAL PLAINS
YAKIMA FOLD MOUNTAINS
SADDLE MOUNTAINS
YAKIMA RIDGE
HORSE HEAVEN HILLS
PALOUSE HILLS
BLUE MOUNTAINS
Walla Walla
Wallula Gateway
COLUMBIA R.
GENERALIZED CROSS-SECTION ALONG 47° 30'
20,000 FEET
SEA LEVEL
COAST RANGE
COASTAL PLAIN
OLYMPIC MOUNTAINS
WILLAMETTE-PUGET LOWLAND
PUGET GLACIAL DRIFT PLAIN
CASCADE MOUNTAINS
COLUMBIA BASIN
WATERVILLE PLATEAU
CHANNELLED SCABLANDS
PALOUSE HILLS
(VERTICAL SCALE EXAGGERATED 6 TIMES)
1955

TOPOGRAPHIC DIAGRAM

SPOKANE COUNTY



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WR. CLEVINGER

northeast of Spokane. The city of Spokane in the middle portion of the valley is at an elevation of about 1,900 feet. The Spokane River flows through the heart of the city in a winding gorge.

Southwestern Spokane County is in the Channelled Scablands. This region consists of an evenly surfaced plateau with a series of glacial outwash channels. In the ice age, glaciers and glacial rivers coursed southwesterly across the area. Channels were eroded into the underlying basaltic rock and narrow, long glacial lake basins were created. Water bodies in these old channels include Downs, Williams, Badger, Rock, Silver, Clear and Medical Lakes. A large area of thin, stony, glaciated soil called Scabland extends generally south from Medical Lake and Cheney to the Whitman County line. West of Spokane and north of Medical Lake is a more elevated area sometimes called the Big Bend Plateau. Large table lands here are Four Mound Prairie, Sunset Prairie and Indian Prairie. These dryland plateaus are from 2,000 to 2,400 feet in elevation and contain large grain farms.

The Palouse Hills region includes the southeast corner of the county. This is a low plateau of basaltic rock covered with hills and deep deposits of fine wind-deposited soils. The area has been eroded into an intricate pattern of gently sloping hills by the drainage of Latah Creek, Rock Creek and the upper Palouse River. Along the Idaho border forested basaltic ridges and peaks rise above the low hills. Tekoa Mountain is a prominent ridge over 3,900 feet high. The Palouse Hills are farmed extensively for grain around Latah, Waverley, Fairfield, Spangle and Rockford.

Land Classification and Soils

The land of Spokane County falls into a number of economic classes and soil series due to mountain building and erosion by glaciers, streams and wind.1/ Soils are divided into twenty series. 2/ In general, the physiographic history has resulted in a limited area of land and soils classified as good or excellent.

Class I and II lands, which have productive soils, even terrain and commercial farms of average to high income, are located in four districts. The largest and richest is the southeast corner of the county in the Palouse soils belt. The Palouse silt loam covers about 180 square miles surrounding Latah, Waverley, Fairfield and Spangle. This soil was deposited by wind in deep beds and gently sloping dunes or hills. It once supported a rich bunch grassland. Fertile and retentive of moisture, the Palouse soils now support cash grain farms which also grow legumes and raise some cattle.

Two localities of Class II land are located in the Cheney-Medical Lake District. A large body of Palouse silt loam lies to the west and north of Cheney, and another patch of this fertile soil covering about six square miles

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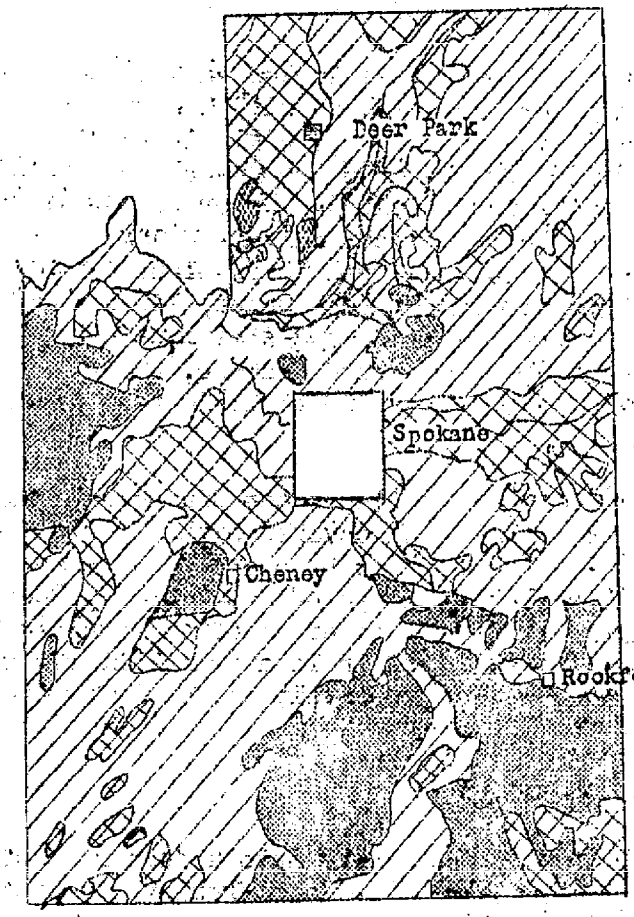
1/ Agricultural Experiment Station, Washington State College, Pullman. Economic Land Use Class Map, Spokane County, Washington, 1949.

2/ U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Soil Survey of Spokane County, Washington. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1921.



CLASS I AND II LAND: Soil of high and above-average productivity; net income per farm is high.

CLASS III AND IV LAND: Soil and terrain of fair quality for farming; farm incomes are average to low.

CLASS V, VI, AND VII LAND: Hilly and mountainous terrain with poor soils, suited for grazing and forest growth only.

Source: State College of Washington
Economic Land Use Class Map, Spokane County, Washington, 1949.

Figure 5.-General Quality of Land For Farming in Spokane County

is located immediately west of Medical Lake. A third district of Class II farm land lies in the northwest corner of the county on the Big Bend Plateau at the head of Coulee Creek where a body of Palouse loam covering about 25 square miles is located. The Palouse loam belt of dryland soils formed under bunchgrass extends on westward into the Big Bend region of Lincoln County. This district is highly specialized in the summer-fallow system of wheat farming. The Peone Prairie district east of Mead to the northeast of Spokane is a fourth area of good farming land. This lowland contains about six square miles of Hunters very fine sandy loam which produces good yields of winter wheat, potatoes and vegetables.

Class III and IV lands which are average to fair in productivity and income are found in five general districts in the county. The largest is in the Channelled Scablands in the southwestern quarter. A thin, stony, rocky soil called Scabland covers most of the area. In some localities of the Scabland there are fertile pockets and bands of peat and muck, Hesseltine stony loam or Palouse silt loam. Scouring by ancient glacial streams and more recent wind erosion has exposed much bare rock. Most of this land is used for pasture but the localized pockets of better soil are suitable for grain and other crops.

A second district includes the large areas of Cheney silt loam soils in the northwestern portion of the county. The Cheney loams are deep glacial soils of fair productivity found on the large level plains west of Spokane--the Four Mounds, Indian and Sunset Prairies. Grain, fruit and dairy farming are practiced with fair yields when the rainfall is normal. A third area of Class III and IV land is found in the valleys of Rock Creek and the Spokane River to the eastward of Spokane. The valley, from the Spokane city limits to the Idaho line, contains a large belt of Garrison sandy and gravelly loams. The Garrison soils are of glacial origin and produce good crops of grain, vegetables and fruit when irrigated and fertilized. The coarse soil requires irrigation to get good production. The benchlands of Rock Creek Valley have a fairly productive forest soil called Helmer silt loam which is used for general farming.

Fourth in importance of the Class II and III lands is the Mead district northeast of Spokane. Foothill prairies and benchlands in this locality contain localized deposits of Palouse loam, Green Bluff loam and Peone silt loam. A minor Class III and IV area is the valley of the Little Spokane River. The Deer Park and Eloika Lake districts contain localized pockets of Clayton, Colville and Waits loams. These are alluvial forest soils used for general farming, hay and pasture. They are subject to flooding by the mountain rivers.

Nearly half of Spokane County is Class V, VI and other rocky mountain lands suited only for grasslands or forests. Most of the stonier parts of the Scablands, the gorges and canyons of the Columbia, Spokane and Little Spokane Rivers and the Okanogan Highlands are in these poor farming classes. Moscow loam and Huckleberry loam are forest soils on the uplands which are used for grassland pastures.

Climate

Spokane County has a continental climate in which summers are hot and dry and winters are cold and humid. In the winter, moist Pacific Ocean air brings

the major part of the rain and snowfall as the westerly winds ascend the slopes of the Palouse Hills and the Okanogan Highlands. As the winds are forced upward they drop their moisture. This ranges between 16 and 45 inches in various parts of the county. Moisture is fairly reliable, allowing for successful grain farming and good grazing on the range lands.

Daily temperature averages in December, January and February are below freezing as thermometers register low temperatures at night and a few degrees above freezing in daytime. Mid-summer temperatures are in the 80's during the day and lower into the 50's at night; 60 to 68 degrees are average summer temperatures at Spokane. Extremes of 108 degrees and freezing periods down to 30 degrees below zero have been recorded at Spokane. Air drainage from the nearby Okanogan, Selkirk and Coeur d'Alene Mountains brings frosts and sudden drops of temperature.

Growing seasons are shorter than in most other counties of Washington but are sufficient to mature grain, vegetable and tree fruit crops because of the high degree of sunshine and mid-day heat during the summer. In the northern mountain valleys and prairies the growing season is short and frosts are late in the spring and early in fall. At Spokane the normal frost free or growing season extends from mid-April to mid-October--a period of 180 days. Frost-sensitive crops such as vegetables are grown with risk of frost damage in the Spokane and Latah Valleys.

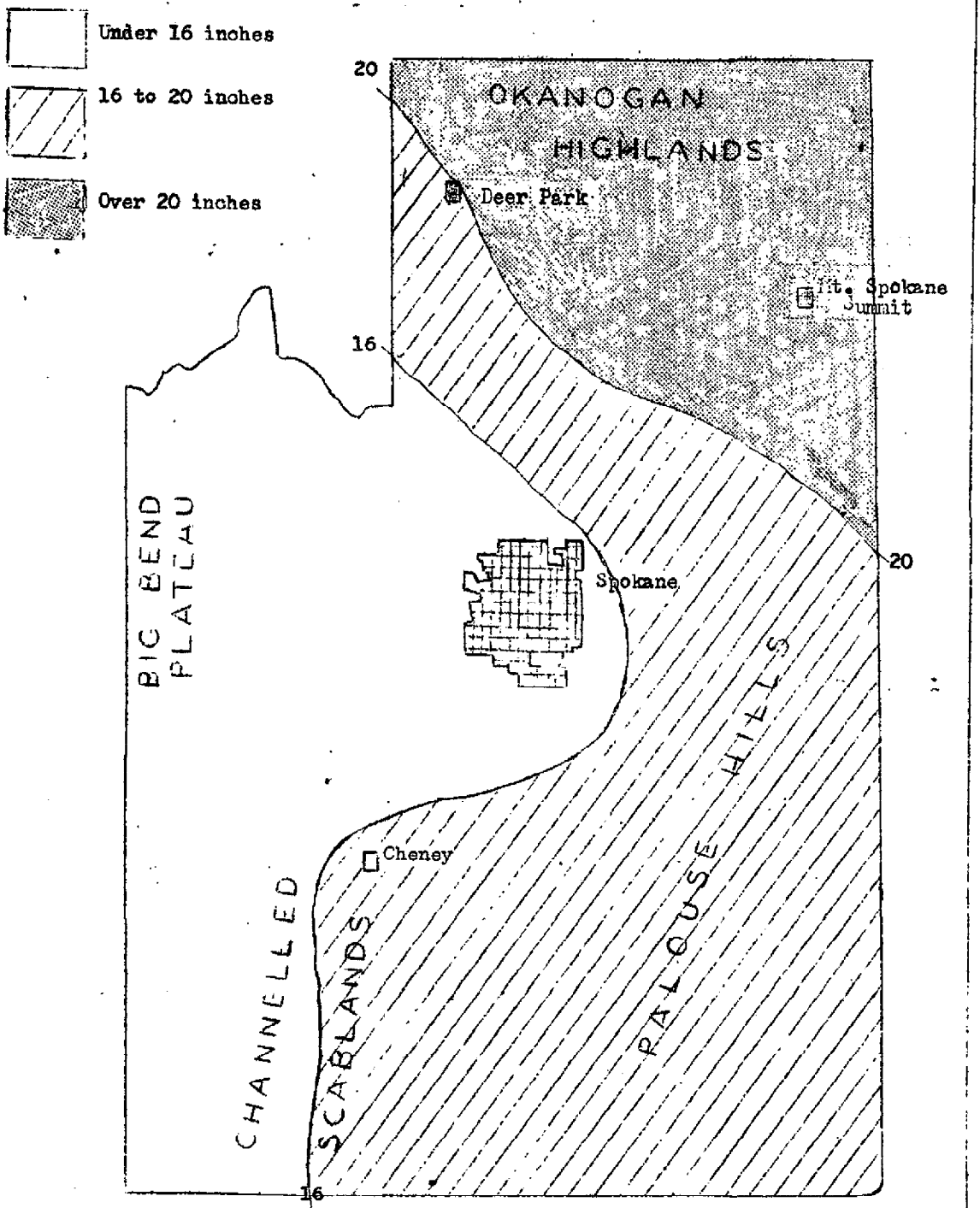
There are three precipitation zones. The southwestern portion including the Channelled Scablands and the Big Bend Plateau is a belt of dryland farming where annual precipitation is normally below 16 inches. Farming here relies heavily on the summer fallow system. Slight variations in the precipitation cause considerable difference in wheat and barley yields and carrying capacity of range pastures. Moisture is stored and conserved by repeated plowing, discing and working of the top soil to lessen evaporation under the high summer temperatures. Winter wheat is also grown to take advantage of the wet season from November to March. Most of the winter precipitation is in the form of snowfall which protects fall-sown grains from freezing.

A zone of 16 to 20 inches corresponds with the Palouse Hills and the lower elevations of the Okanogans. This belt covers nearly half the county area and

Table 6.- Temperature Extremes, Dates of Killing Frost
Spokane County

Station and Elevation	Temperature Extremes Recorded (degrees Fahrenheit)		Killing Frost Average Dates	
	Coldest	Hottest	Last in Spring	First in Fall
Cheney (2,400)	-26	107	May 5	October 1
Deer Park (2,114)	-42	107	June 4	September 14
Spokane (1,875)	-30	108	April 12	October 13
Mt. Spokane Summit (5,890)	-35	75	June 28	July 21

Source: U.S. Dept. of Agric., Climate and Man, 1941 Yearbook of Agriculture.



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Yearbook 1941, Climate and Man.

Figure 6.- Distribution of Precipitation
Spokane County

is the primary region of grain and livestock farming. The Palouse soil in this zone absorbs and stores the moisture of the winter season and releases it in a manner ideal for growing winter wheat. Summer fallow is commonly practiced here too. Much of the mid-winter precipitation is in the form of snow which provides a reliable protective blanket. One problem is topsoil erosion caused by heavy rainstorms or periods of rapid snow-melt runoff during warm Chinook winds.

Table 7.- Precipitation, Spokane County

Station and Elevation in Feet	Average Monthly Precipitation (in inches)												Annual Total (inches)
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
Cheney (2,400)	1.8	1.9	1.2	1.0	1.8	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.9	1.6	2.3	2.3	17.1
Deer Park (2,114)	2.7	2.0	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.3	0.5	0.6	1.2	1.6	2.7	3.1	20.3
Spokane (1,875)	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.3	0.8	0.6	0.9	1.2	2.1	2.2	16.6
Mount Spokane Summit (5,890)	7.7	2.3	2.0	3.3	2.8	3.1	3.7	3.5	2.9	1.7	5.2	6.1	44.5

Source: U.S. Weather Bureau, Climatological Data, Washington, Annual Summary 1954.

Table 8.- Temperatures For Selected Stations, By Months
Spokane County
(Source: United States Weather Bureau)

Station and Elevation in Feet	Average Temperatures (in degrees Fahrenheit)												Annual Average
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
Cheney (2,400)	27.9	33.2	39.6	48.4	54.8	61.2	70.5	67.4	61	49.4	37.9	31.4	48.5
Deer Park (2,114)	24.2	28.4	37.1	46.1	53.2	59.6	65.8	63.8	55.7	45.9	34.4	27.4	43.6
Spokane (1,875)	27.5	31.3	39.7	48.4	55.5	62.8	69	68	59.2	48.3	38.5	35.9	48
Mount Spokane Summit (5,890)	17.5	—	22.7	29.8	—	44.2	55	52.6	45.8	36.6	33.6	23.2	—

The Okanogan Highlands area is the wet zone, receiving 20 to 30 inches in the valley bottoms around Deer Park and Elk to about 45 inches in the higher elevations such as Mount Spokane. Most of the area is snow-covered in the winter. Plentiful moisture allows for forest growth and good yields of pasture grass, hay and grain in the narrow bottomlands and upland prairies of the Little Spokane River Basin.

Natural Vegetation and Wildlife

The natural vegetation pattern consists of grassland in the south and pine forest in the north. The grasslands of the Palouse, Scablands and the Big Bend originally supported herds of antelope, wild horses and deer. Early explorers reported bunch grass was over two feet in height in the Palouse Hills. Blue bunchgrass and June grass grew in dense stands on the prairies and low hillsides and were ideal for early cattle ranching. French-Canadian trappers and fur traders called the area "Pelouse", the French term for grassland from which Palouse is derived.

Ponderosa (yellow) pine forest once covered Spokane County from Cheney and Rockford northward. Associated with ponderosa pine are grand fir, western larch, Douglas fir and lodgepole pine. This forest is of the open, scattered type with an understory of grass and shrubs. As a result, extensive areas are used for grazing as well as timber production. A large area of mature pine forest is preserved for recreation in Mount Spokane State Park, a popular area for camping, hiking and winter sports. In addition to the public ownership of 24,240 acres in the state park there is a large acreage of privately owned forest land. There are 185,000 acres of pastured farm woodlands and 259,000 acres of farm woodlands according to the 1954 Census of Agriculture. Timber is owned by about 1,700 farm operators. Farm forestry is becoming more important as small owners continue to improve woodland management and find markets for small sawlogs and pulpwood.

Logging and lumbering provide considerable part-time employment for many farmers in the northern valleys of Spokane County. Spokane is the most important pine lumber county in Washington and the city of Spokane has long been a pine lumber manufacturing center. Deer Park is also a lumber center. Logs are hauled to Spokane from the highlands of the county and other forest regions of northeastern Washington and northern Idaho.

In 1948 there were 26 mills in Spokane County which produced 129,000,000 board feet of lumber. Most of this cut was from logs brought in from other counties. Log production of Spokane County in 1953 was only 30,829,000 board feet. In 1948 Spokane County was estimated to have a reserve of saw timber of pine and other softwood species of 807,870,000 board feet. 1/

The forests, farmlands, lakes and streams contain wildlife resources which provide recreation and some extra income to farmers. The Washington State Game Department lists 16 lakes and 5 streams as good to fair trout fishing. Big game animal hunting brings numerous sportsmen into the highland valleys. About 1,500 deer are taken annually. The grasslands and farmlands of the south yield about 15,000 ring-necked pheasants each season. Commercial trappers and farm boys take a wild fur catch of about 2,000 muskrat and 150 mink each winter.

1/ The forest and lumber statistics of Spokane County for recent years have been derived from The Lumberman Hundbook and Directory of the Western Forest Industries, published at 71 Columbia Street, Seattle 4, Washington.

Table Spokane County's Rank Compared With Other Washington Counties

Item Compared	Rank	Quantity	Year
General			
Land area	21	1,128,320 acres	1954
Number of farms	7	3,594 farms	1954
Land in farms--percent	8	73.2 percent	1954
Average size of farms	18	230 acres	1954
Cropland harvested	5	290,158 acres	1954
Rural farm population	8	12,269 persons	1950
Total county population	3	221,561 persons	1950
Cash farm income			
Value of all farm products sold	7	22,307,056 dollars	1954
Value of livestock sold	7	6,622,551 dollars	1954
Value of crops sold	9	15,549,704 dollars	1954
Livestock on farms			
All cattle and calves	8	46,500 head	1954
Milk cows	4	22,000 head	1954
Hogs	3	11,476 head	1954
Chickens	6	281,103 birds	1954
Horses and mules	4	2,215 head	1954
Sheep and lambs	17	2,082 head	1954
Dairy and poultry products sold			
Value of dairy products sold	8	2,689,687 dollars	1954
Whole milk sold	8	56,155,000 pounds	1954
Value of poultry products sold	8	1,562,170 dollars	1954
Chickens sold	7	475,437 birds	1954
Eggs sold	6	2,497,201 dozen	1954
Important crops harvested			
Wheat	7	119,800 acres	1954
Barley	6	36,300 acres	1954
Alfalfa	1	56,500 acres	1954
Fruits	8	1,237 acres	1954

Sources: U.S. Census, Agriculture, 1954.
U.S. Census, Popoulation, 1950.
Washington State Census Board, 1955.
U.S. Dept. of Agric., AMS, Estimates Division, State of Washington.